

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-48 were pending; Claims 1-6, 14, 15, 22, 24-29, 32-35, 41-43 and 47-48 were rejected and Claims 7-13, 16-21, 23, 30-31, 36-40 and 44-46 were objected to in the Office action. Claims 1, 8, 17, 32-33 and 43 have been amended; Claims 7, 16, 36 and 44 have been cancelled; and, new Claims 49-73 have been added. No new matter was added as a result of this amendment.

Claim Objections

Claims 7-13, 16-21, 23, 30, 31, 36-40 and 44-46 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In order to obviate the objections, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of now cancelled Claim 7; Claim 32 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of now cancelled Claim 7; Claim 33 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of now cancelled Claim 36; and, Claim 43 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of now cancelled Claim 44. As such, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 32, 33, and 43 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-6, 8-15 and 17-32 are claims dependent on now allowable Claim 1, and are allowable, without more.

Claims 34-35 and 37-42 are claims dependent on now allowable Claim 33 and are allowable, without more.

Claims 45-48 are claims dependent on now allowable Claim 43 and are allowable, without more.

Rejection of Claims

35 U.S.C. §102 (b)

Claims 1-6, 14, 15, 22, 24-29, 32-35, 41-43 and 47-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b), as being anticipated by Templeton, Jr. et al. (US 5,766,975; "Templeton"). In view of the amendments made to overcome the objections, the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are now moot.

New Claims

New Claims 49-73 have been introduced, to further claim the matter to which the Applicant is entitled.

New Claim 49 is original Claim 1, further incorporating the subject matter of now cancelled Claim 16; new Claim 66 is original Claim 33, further incorporating the subject matter of now cancelled Claim 36. The Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable.

Claims 50-65 are claims dependent on allowable Claim 49 and are allowable, without more.

Claims 67-73 are claims dependent on allowable Claim 66 and are allowable, without more.

Conclusion

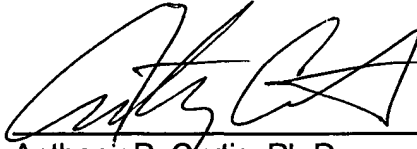
Claims 1-48 were pending. Claims 1, 8, 17, 32-33 and 43 have been amended; Claims 7, 16, 36 and 44 have been cancelled; new Claims 48-73 have been introduced. Claims 1-6, 8-15, 17-35, 37-43 and 45-73 are now pending.

For at least the reasons presented above, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seeks an early allowance thereof.

Serial No.: 10/706,064

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview would expedite consideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony P. Curtis', is written over a horizontal line.

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